Workers' fight

Don't carry the can!

5

SINCE NOVEMBER, according to official figures, 47,000 workers have joined the dole queue. One press estimate indicates that permanent redundancies — redundancies for which money is paid out under the Redundancy Payments Act — will total 20,000 throughout 1975.

The latest official figure now stands at 74,000. If the figures were calculated on the same basis as they are in the U.S.A., the real jobless total would be nearer one million.

The brunt of the 'job-slaughter', up to now, has been borne by the building industry and the car and car components industries.

That fact in itself shows up the lies of the bosses' propaganda blaming unemployment on 'high wages' and strikes. Building workers have just accepted an agreement giving 17% per year pay rise until 1976 — that is, with 20% more, and yearly price rises, a wage cut in real terms. Labour and trade union leaders were delighted at this victory for the 'social contract'. But a government survey recently published says that unemployment and bankruptcies in the industry will get worse.

In the car industry, Chrysler is worse hit than Vauxhall, Ford, or British Leyland. Why? Because they have not had so many strikes, and so stocks are higher. So much for the idea that strikes are the cause of unemployment.

Vauxhall Ellesmere Port workers have resolved, at a mass meeting last week, to oppose redundancies, occupying the works if necessary. If this decision is taken seriously and acted on, it could be a real start for the fight back that car workers urgently need to launch.

But promises to be militant in the future do not speak as loud as actions now. And Vauxhall workers have made their position much weaker by accepting three-day working.

This means undermining shop floor organisation, for example, stewards agreeing to transfer of union cards for the time being), which could lead to closing down agreements. The same can happen again.

The agreements run out, workers will stand to lose £10 to £20 each week.

Lay-off

At Chrysler, Ryton, Stoke, and Linwood, lay off pay agreements are already running out. 5000 Linwood workers have been on a three day week since 6th January, 4000 Coventry workers since the 13th. 27th January they were put on short time without any notice. Now 80 workers have been working short time since the end of November. 3500 Lucas workers have been on a four day week since mid-January. 2800 North Staffordshire pottery workers, 2000 Kidderminster carpet workers, and numerous smaller groups, are also on short time.

A year ago, during the Tories' three day week, we saw how many bosses took up loopholes in guaranteed week agreements, and pushed through speed-up. The same can happen again, and if it does it could drastically reduce our ability to resist massive sackings later.

The agreements are in fact already taking place or being announced. 1500 workers at Walls Willeidens plant 300 workers in West Midlands and Scottish works of BSR, 1000 employers at Honeywell's Scottish factories. The Hull and Leicester factories

Imperial Tyreworkers are scheduled to close. Being 'co-operative' does not help at all. It all does is play into the hands of bosses who want a safe ride through the capitalist recession at workers' expense. It plays into the hands of bosses who try to split worker from worker, like those at Dawson International Knitwear, who offer the workers two options: 700 sackings and a four day week, or 350 sackings and a three day week.

Homeless

There is no good reason why anyone should be unemployed. The case of the building industry shows that very clearly. There are tens of thousands completely homeless, and millions living in slums. Yet some 200,000 building workers are unemployed. Why? Because the MacAspines and the Wates cannot make enough profit out of employing them.

Cuts in pay at Pochin's Manchester Poly site have given an example, at a local level, of how to fight back. Workers have to take over the site and the factories.

To form new 'workers' cooperation' like Triumph, Meriden, and to end up enforcing speed-up and job cutting ourselves, under the pressures of capitalist competition — but to take control, where we can, without taking responsibility for running capitalism, is to extend that control as far as possible, to strike as hard as possible against capitalist power.

That's the only way to solve the crisis of capitalism = smash capitalism.

Crow

Employers crow gleefully over the example of workers in both the rubber and finance sectors refusing a threshold pay rise in response to claims that the company would otherwise go bust. It is difficult to imagine a more short sighted policy. It is an open invitation to bosses to blackmail workers into more wage cuts and more speed ups. And those wage cuts and those speed ups will not soften the crisis of capitalism, or spirit it away, or stale its thins for exploit- ing the crisis that is just as hard — in fact, harder — in lower-paid Spain or France than it does in better-paid West Germany or the USA.

The only realistic policy is a guaranteed average worker's wage for all, short time or no short time, without any loopholes: and a concerted trade union campaign for 30 hour cut-backs = share the work — no loss of pay.

Proposing up bankrupt capitalists through the 'Lever bank', the 'National Enterprise Board', or publicise schemes, only drags out the suffering at the taxpayers' expense. Worse still, it will lead to the state interfering to impose speed-up with the excuse that workers must give something to save their jobs.

Speed-up

Big business journalists are quite openly saying that the advantage they see in Benn's co-operative schemes is as pioneers of speed-up.

Workers in these cooperatives will be forced to labour on 'co-operative' (i.e. profitsharing) principles: just the slogan that "now you're working for yourself".

The Tribune MPs, after Dennis Healey's talk of 'adapting to the donut', want the Labour Government to transform the 'Social Contract' into a 'Socialist Contract', including "planning agreements between giant private companies, the state and trade unions". In other words, let's get together to help capitalists out.

No! Instead of state subsidies to support even the grudging talk about nationalisation, we should demand to know all the background facts about any proposed closures or sackings. Bank and file workers' action is good we must start from, new piece of hope agreements in Whitchall.

Martin Stevens
IN ONE year alone recently, 12,000 people applied as homeless to the Greater London Council (GLC) for housing in the Metropolitan area. This represents over 40 per week, and the GLC estimates that the actual number of homeless is far higher, as many families are applying on behalf of others.

Three years later, only 2,000 of these were rehoused. The rest were forced back into bad conditions — living in squalid conditions in unfit houses, or paying huge rents to private landlords.

Many thousands of people not included in these figures statistics aren't counted because, somehow, they put up with the insanities and unsuitability of sub-standard housing they have managed to get hold of. Of course, homeless citizens and bad living conditions go together. A GLC press release of October 1974 stated that one million people in London were either homeless lone dwellers or living with relatives. This figure was confirmed by the 1971 census.

Over one million Londoners were living at a density of one person per room and over, and 62,000 were chronically overcrowded at one and a half persons per room and over.

The stock response of councils to a refusal to provide housing for those who are without shelter is to blame the squatters. In the opinion of the GLC or a local council, you have to go through a humiliating court process to prove that you are not a squatter technically. They want to prove that a person has looked elsewhere for housing but having been evicted from previous accommodation, and the council will still insist that people have been evicted unless there is a court order for an eviction.

In between eviction and being refused and everyone’s common experience for people to have to spend weeks in bed and breakfast hotels, probably being turned out of the room in the daytime. One Wandsworth hotel made 170 out of the council on bed and breakfast facilities in a year.

Another alternative is 'Part 3' accommodation, which is specially converted from old decayed buildings (in a case, a school in one case), and of which there is a restricted amount. The rooms in these are like prison cells, and in Wandsworth they are complete with a patrons’ manager (who won’t), for example, allow unsupported mothers to sleep with their boyfriends while in "Part 3."}

OVERTOWNED

The lack of a right to a home has repercussions throughout the lives of working class people. Obviously, accepting high rents as an alternative to slum conditions is not really enough. The council housing is too often the first offer.

The fact is that these rents are in many cases quite beyond the means of the tenants is shown by the figures for the first time rents. In November 1974, GLC rent arrears stood at 42,500. It rose to a total of 94,000. There was a total of 9,400 tenants owing more than ten weeks’ rent.

The effects of this sort of pressure can be appalling. There are cases, for example, of a woman who had left her husband and family to go to the beat, and gone with her 11-year-old son to the feu of the Bacton council flat. Her sister threatened to have her thrown out of the place over, but the council then refused to rehouse her, as her husband had lived in the area. In effect, the council said she'd 'just get you out in bed & breakfast if your sister evicts you, or you might go back to your husband's council flat.' (In fact, it was the stock response of councils to refuse to provide housing for people who have left their husband's house, however much they have suffered. And another set of people 'imprisoned' like that are an estimated 10,000 'mental patients' who are unable to leave their institutions for lack of accommodation outside.)

The woman in Bacton became suicidal, and it was only local action by a community group that found her a place to live by putting her in touch with local squatters. But how many more suffer unnoticed?

There are: less other cases where pressure from housing conditions aggravates personal problems that themselves arise from the oppressive relations of capitalist society. Most battered wives tell of severe housing problems, where the husband's aggression against his environment, against his family, and he hits the wife and kids, "who won't leave him alone, won't be quiet, don't realise what he puts up with at work," etc. Sexual frustrations and hang-ups arise from parents and children living in one room, and it’s probably a room with paper thin walls that the father can hear.

Such is the pressure on councils to cope with the homeless that council building is done entirely with a view to cheapness. This allows the whole way that housing subsides are worked out at government level. The Labour government’s proposed new building subsidy, set at 60%, is flat to the fact entirely inadequate, and according to the Chairman of Manchester's Housing Department, Mr.3, this "will inevitably lead to large rent increases, in the maintenance of housing need. Labour councils will be faced with the choice of putting up the rents or stopping building. It is likely that the Labour government's act will give less money to the councils to build and improve houses than they were receiving under the Tory government. Councils thus have to look for cheap and cut corners, and tenants end up making ample, losing family. But it is likely that the Labour council's government's act will give less money to the councils to build and improve houses than they were receiving under the Tory government.

The curtailment of the Labour government’s in lowering the cost of building allows for the building of the new council houses in.enabled to be built in a shorter time.

The authorities cannot even get away with talk of an expanding population when, in fact, there is a tendency to fall — because the birth rate is falling.

What is happening, in an area like Wandsworth, is that younger families are moving in and taking up parts of the old buildings, and working class families are being squeezed tighter despite the fall in population of Wandsworth.

A large part of London's housing stock is reaching the end of its useful life, and there is a large Victorian city with few housing to last more than a hundred years.

Every year, more and more people are forced to live in rooms or flats, or are forced to live in old, dilapidated houses. They are having to be less and less choosy about the conditions in which they live. As more and more families are forced into this, it becomes harder to organise social struggles, as families tend to squat in a standard building until it gets pulled down, and then get housed in rather better conditions. This leaves over a privately-owned empty house, and good conditions, and get faced with the housing committee away.

The solution of workers' housing under capitalism is to be looked for in the squatting of workers, who must be considered as the first and most powerful of all. The squatting movement is cheaply as possible. Houses are built at a high density, much of it by the thousands of squatters, and so savings on squatters, and so are employed to prevent squatting.

The movement is bringing to this situation. And this still means that on what Goodwin doesn’t believe.

But his attack wasn't just a general condemnation of the GLC. It was an attack on his own city council, which is called the London Borough of Islington. He accused the council of not doing enough to prevent squatting. It was pointed out that the Labour government had introduced the "housing subvention", a device which was supposed to help councils to prevent squatting. But Goodwin said that the council was not doing enough to prevent squatting.

In the London Borough of Islington, the number of squatters has increased dramatically. The council has been accused of not doing enough to prevent squatting. However, Goodwin has been accused of not doing enough to prevent squatting.

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Trade unionists in the north west are taking moves to prevent the building of a new hospital at Stockport. This is the latest issue in the war of hospital workers against private medicine.

The American Medical International Company (AMI), which runs 46 private hospitals in the USA and 14 hospitals in Switzerland and France, has made approaches to Stockport Corporation for planning permission for a new £5 million private hospital in the town. The brains behind the scheme is Dr. Stanley Ballfours-Lynn, managing director of the company’s London and chief executive of the Federation of American Medical Centers. AMI claims he has the support of over 100 consultants in the Manchester area for the project, and the BMA is also reported to be actively involved.

The involvement of the BMA comes as a surprise, for a letter was circulated to doctors in the Manchester area signed by Dr. D.M. Davies (Chairman of the Manchester Regional Committee of the BMA’s Medical Services Division), which contained a reprint of a circular from the BMA HQ urging active support for a project to build a new hospital in the north west. The letter went on to say: “My purpose in writing to you is to let you know that we fully support this present move by the local BMA to help the Company in any way we can. I have the authority of the BMA’s National Executive Committee for the Association policy is to assist and encourage in every way the development of private practice.”

But at that time it was the ancillary workers’ and nurses’ campaign against private practice in Stockport, so by August the issue was already being discussed in detail in the Manchester area. It was reported that the BMA now also supports the BMA’s campaign against private practice and is considering a proposal by national BMA’s President, Dr. A.H. H. Smeaton, to circulate a national letter to hospital employees urging them to consider joining the BMA.

The BMA in Stockport has been steadfast in its opposition to private medicine and has repeatedly refused permission for the building of a new hospital.

A recent demonstration outside the lavish new Wellington private hospital

by Jack Sutton

HEALTH HUSTLERS

MARCH AGAINST PRIVATE PRACTICE

Workers Fight No.85, p.5

by Jack Sutton

A SUPERIOR CLASS OF SPONGERS

As the National Health Service declines, the private practice profiteers are rapidly organising their own private hospitals, with their own hospitals, consultants, nurses and auxiliaries.

Supports of private medical enterprise have been growing in confidence, as both Labour and Tory councils have been successfully avoiding all talk of nationalising NHS.

In response to this mounting attack a group of doctors and medical members of ASTMS have formed the Medical Practitioners against Private Practice (MCAPP).

The idea was that the main weakness of the BMA was that it was divided into sectional groups, such as general practitioners, who had their own interests and were frequently divided on matters of policy. The MCAPP was formed to bring together all those who were opposed to private medicine and to promote a united front against it.

The MCAPP also sought to organise a national day of protest, which was held on 1st April 1975. It was a largely peaceful demonstration, with a large turnout of supporters. The MCAPP also published a pamphlet called “The NHS in Danger,” which was widely circulated among hospital workers.

The campaign was successful in mobilising a large amount of support, and was able to force the government to make concessions on the issue of private medicine. The government was forced to make a U-turn on its plans for a private hospital in Stockport, and was unable to proceed with its plans for a new hospital in the area.

The campaign also helped to raise awareness of the issues surrounding private medicine, and was able to bring the issue to the attention of the general public. The MCAPP was able to organise a number of protests and demonstrations, which helped to publicise the issue and bring about a change in public opinion.

The campaign was a key factor in the eventual defeat of the government’s plans for a private hospital in Stockport, and was an important victory for the NHS and its supporters.

The campaign was also able to inspire similar campaigns in other parts of the country, and helped to create a national movement against private medicine.

The MCAPP was able to maintain a high level of activity and organisation, and was able to sustain its campaign over a long period of time.

The campaign was a clear victory for the NHS and its supporters, and helped to establish a strong base of support for the NHS against the threat of private medicine.
FEARS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED FOR THE SAFETY OF 17 HUNGER STRIKERS IN DUBLIN'S PORTALISI GAOL. THE HUNGER STRIKE IS IN SUPPORT OF 18 DEMANDS INCLUDING PROVISION OF FOOD, EDUCATION AND OTHER FACILITIES. ONE OF THE HUNGER STRIKERS, 27-YEAR-OLD PATRICK O'DONNELL, IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE LAST RITES.

VISITS TO THE REPUBLICAN PRISONERS IN PORTALISI HAVE BEEN Halted, in a letter sent to the Irish Minister of Justice Mr. Conlon, signed by Senator Michael Mullen, actress Siobhan McKenna and Mr. Seamus J. O'MAHONY.

Sorohan (a leading lawyer), the signatories state that they are aware that the treatment of the prisoners affected by the 18 demands including the withholding of information received by us strongly indicates that the prisoners have been subjected to living in primitive conditions.

The letter continues "The refusal to allow visitors to prisoners concerned with them has led to widespread unjustified speculation. The primitive conditions were subsequently confirmed by the prisoners themselves."

FEARS FOR DUBLIN GOVERNMENT'S PRISONERS AT PORTALISI

IT TOOK JUST A MINUTE before a number of warders and a British soldier entered the Long Kesh camp for a head count. But one of the prisoners, Jim Moyne, a young Republican, was already there. He had been rescued from the camp hospital on a food trolley. Twenty minutes earlier, he'd been taken ill with a severe attack of asthma. He was unable to breathe, and his face and hands began to turn blue. The men in the hut rudely told him he could have medical help, but did not mention it because they did not have the time.

When they noticed that Jim Moyne was seriously ill, they asked the men carrying him to put him on a food trolley. Then they wheeled him to the camp hospital but.

Half an hour later he was dead. Jim Moyne was later photographed at the Long Kesh camp for a head count. But one of the warders and a British soldier entered the camp hospital on a food trolley. Twenty minutes earlier, he'd been taken ill with a severe attack of asthma. He was unable to breathe, and his face and hands began to turn blue. The men in the hut rudely told him he could have medical help, but did not mention it because they did not have the time.

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STOP RENEWAL OF JENKINS ACT

Second Printing

James

Abortion 

lobbies

Comrades - James Whittaker, a Labour MP, has told a Private Member's Bill to adopt the 1967 Abortion Act. The Bill would narrow the legal period during which abortion could be performed, and allow the legal grounds for abortion, leaving only материelle restrictions. 

Lobbying from reactionary organisations such as Exile of Light and SPUR has gained support from several MPs, and the Bill is at present to its Second Reading. This issue will be brought to the attention of the public by Comrades in the course of the coming session of Parliament.

The Registrar General's statistics for death, which are usually used for social class comparisons, are significant because they demonstrate the class nature of death. It shows that the chances of a coal face miner dying before the age of 60 is 10 times greater than that of a miner. One in ten men who die in the UK before the age of 60 has bronchitis. 10% of workers refuse to do this work before the age of 60 through health reasons.

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ABSURD AND WITHOUT REASON

In this most tragic of centuries, the epoch of capitalism's bloody decline, no past ideologies of the elite can prevent the world from being overwhelmed by the system of production and accumulation for its own sake. In these circumstances, these classes have been reduced by monopoly capital from God-fearing, industrious, purveyor of small scale medieval production, into an assortment of wage-earners - clerical, teachers, salesmen etc. This process of proletarianisation and social disillusionment has given rise to such widespread feelings of alienation that among those who cannot understand the causes of this, life can seem absurd and without meaning.

Such a sense of chaos and meaninglessness is paralleled today by the earlier epoch, in particular by the withering of any viable religious belief.

The world Elstor portrays is one in which the idea of a rational and final purpose in life is paramount. This is a world in which the idea of a rational and final purpose in life is paramount. This is a world in which the idea of a rational and final purpose in life is paramount.

T.S. Eliot, "the most saltirely of English poets" (N. B. W.) - the poet of petty bourgeois existence in "Four Quartets" (in the 1940s), a celebration of mystical communion with God through renunciation of the world and the spiritual quest for 'moments of eternity' 

CULTURED POPULOUS

His despair had become somewhat, a sentimentality, and his sense of destiny, as well as his expressed in masterful language and rhythm, was then somewhat in a manner that is avoidable, inhuman purpose.

The poet himself, from his social background as an educated, highbrow, conservative, petty bourgeois, has been condemned as a 'sinner of destiny'; his ideas and his theory of the possibility of change is utterly fanciful and indeed obscene.

In fact he gave voice to only a narrow range of experience, but he was completely unable to portray the 'spirit of man being human' being released and without realisation in his own life as well.

T.S. Eliot is a key figure in 20th-century literature because of the way in which he was able to develop and perfect the innovations that revolutionised poetry in order to be able to continue to invent and to achieve material individualism through the use of 'the only alternative to a hopeless dragnet towards death and oblivion. This produced the
BLOODY SUNDAY MEETING T.O.M. MUST NOT DUCK THE ISSUES

More than 300 people came to a meeting on Sunday evening on January 28th to commemorate the victims of Bloody Sunday in Derry 3 years ago. Women and young men demonstrated in support of the British Army Paratroopers.

Organizers of a另一 Top Trains Open Movement, the rally took place in front of branches in the North West and the North East.

Eamonn McCann, speaking last December, warned that a lack of transparency in the movement was leading to the impression that the movement was not interested in the truth.

This point was also echoed by a member of the Arbourmow, speaking for the British Caiman's Retirees Association, with the release of Appeal in mid-December, after 18 months of an 18 month period of investigation, the report of an out leaflet to soldiers, the distribution of the soldier who has been a victim of the Defence Forces.

Finally, Alastair Reitman, a member of the British Army, also speaking for the British Army, said that he was encouraged by the outcome of the process of investigation.

Michael Walsh, from Birmingham, surely the most important political of the Ulster politicians, the Army and the British government towards the movement.

The way forward for the movement is that they will face the challenge of the power of the military.

The Government must be watching with some nervousness at the recent wave of pay negotiations between the British government and the British government.

The fact that Gormley had over the weekend of the British government and the British government continues to do this.

But we must say that Gormley is now a man who can be relied upon to do the right thing.

VICTIMISATIONS AS NUT sell-out no.2 gets underway

About 250 teachers on the National Union of Teachers' Houghton Pay Award meeting at the NUM meeting at the NUM on Saturday night.

The NUM has already made plans for a campaign building up to the 1975 full time in April.

They have the experience that two days later the NUM and the NUT are now making an attempt to take the people on a march to London.

However, the NUM's move has been widely condemned by the TUC and by the NUT.

At the strike meeting in the Thursday, it was made clear that the NUM's move was not acceptable and that it was a threat to the NUM's position in the NUM/UCR.

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London teachers had had a chance to discuss the NUM and the NUT and the NUM's move was also condemned by the TUC.

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If the vis is not renewed, he could be deported under new provisions. However, there are no plans for it.

Caprino views his release as a victory.

As he says, there is nothing to prevent a change in the present policy.

As long as the 1971 Immigration Act is on the statute book, what happens to the children of someone who has been resident in the UK before the terms of the Act are a matter of policy. There are plans to change the policy in the near future.

First, it will continue to press for full-time in April and the Union's position on the 1971 Immigration Act is still a matter of policy.

There is talk of a development of the 1971 Immigration Act as a result of the election. The 1971 Immigration Act is a matter of policy.

The main object of the campaign will be to start a widespread opposition for a repeal of the 1971 Immigration Act.

Bruce Robinson

NUT-VICTIMISED FOR BEING VAIN

Tom Gibson, the National Union of Teachers' (NUT) candidate for the Burscough seat, has been victimised for being vain.

Twenty-four year old John Gormley was refused a place on the NUT Social Contract because he was deemed to be a victim of victimisation.

The NUT Social Contract was set up to give teachers a "special opportunity" to get a job.

However, in an interview with The Guardian, Professor Neil Reay, who was a member of the NUT Social Contract, said that the decision to reject Gormley was "a mistake".

Gormley is a member of the Conservative Party and has been involved in a series of local and national political campaigns.

He was also a member of the Burscough Hunt, which was disbanded in 1992.

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